

**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT**  
**December 24, 2023**  
**10AM Combined Service**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

Pastor Penny

**OPENING HYMN**

*Jesus Came, the Heavens Adoring*

*LSB 353 (vv. 1, 3-4)*

- 1 Jesus came, the heav'ns adoring, Came with peace from realms on high;  
Jesus came to win redemption, Lowly came on earth to die;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Came in deep humility.
  
- 3 Jesus comes to hearts rejoicing, Bringing news of sins forgiv'n;  
Jesus comes with words of gladness, Leading souls redeemed to heav'n.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Hope to all the world is giv'n.
  
- 4 Jesus comes in joy and sorrow, Shares alike our hopes and fears;  
Jesus comes, whate'er befalls us, Cheers our hearts and dries our tears;  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Comforts us in failing years.

Text and music: Public domain

**OPENING**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**CONFESSION AND GOD'S FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: So that we may experience the peace of sins forgiven, let us come before our Lord with humble hearts as we confess our sins:

*(A Time for Silent reflection on God's Word and self-examination)*

Pastor: Together we confess...

**People: Gracious Father, we all have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. By what we have done and by what we have failed to do, we have broken Your commands and have not walked in Your plans for our lives.**

Pastor: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, You alone give us the redemption and the restoration, the absolution and the ability to follow Your Word. Through the work of Jesus, the Word made flesh, do for us what is impossible apart from You.

**People: Forgive us, renew us, and lead us so that we may follow Your plan for our lives and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: In the mercy of our gracious Father, Jesus came into this world, journeying from the crib to the cross, from the tomb and to His throne of glory in order to secure our forgiveness according to God's plan of salvation. Receive His assurance of pardon this day as we celebrate Jesus' coming to save us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH**

Pastor: As we light the fourth candle of Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Light of the world.

**People: the light no darkness can overcome.**

Pastor: The Word made flesh, who dwelt among us, said...

**Men: Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you.**

**Women: Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.**

Pastor: We celebrate advent at peace with God, proclaiming the Lord's birth, death and resurrection, until the day when He will come again.

**People: Amen. Praise the One who breaks the darkness!**

*(John 1:4, 14; 14:27)*

## **VERSE**

## ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel***

LSB 357 (v. 7)

O come, Desire of Nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind;  
Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel Shall come to thee, O Israel!

Text and music: Public domain

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Pastor: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, O Lord; come and help us by Your might,

**People: that we may know Your plan of salvation and trust that nothing is impossible with You;**

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD**

### ***2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16***

**7** Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, **2** the king said to Nathan the prophet, "See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent." **3** And Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you."

**4** But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, **5** "Go and tell my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? **6** I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. **7** In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?"' **8** Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. **9** And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. **10** And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, **11** from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house.

**16** And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.' "

### ***Romans 16:25–27***

**25** Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages **26** but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— **27** to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## **MEMORY VERSE OF THE MONTH** (Preparation to Lift us up to hear the Gospel)

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

(*Isaiah 40:3*)

## **ALLELUIA**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

LSB 205

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**People: Glory to You, O Lord.**

### ***Luke 1:26–38***

**26** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" **29** But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. **30** And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. **32** He will be great

and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup> For nothing will be impossible with God." <sup>38</sup> And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **A CHRISTMAS CREED** (from Colossians 1:15-20)

[We believe that Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. Amen.

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Paula Weiss*

### **GOD'S MESSAGE FOR YOU**

*We Are Waiting and At Peace*

*Pastor Patton*

### **THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND SIGNING OF FRIENDSHIP PADS**

**Everyone**, please sign the friendship pad, then pass the pad from the outside aisle to the inside aisle.

### **MUSICAL OFFERING**

*Christmas Hallelujah*

*Cohen*

Promise

### **PRAISES AND PRAYERS**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### **CHRIST COMES TO US IN HOLY COMMUNION**

*Pastor Penny*

#### **THE PREFACE** (We Begin the Order of the Sacrament)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: **(do not print or project)** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, the very Word made flesh who came to dwell among us, fulfilling Your Word and bringing to earth the peace of heaven. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

#### **THE SANCTUS** (Our God is Holy)

LSB 208

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **THE PAX DOMINI** (We extend the Lord's Peace to one another)

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People: And also with you. Amen.**

### **THE AGNUS DEI** (The Lamb of God takes away our sin)

LSB 210

- 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

### **DISTRIBUTION Holy Communion is offered in individual cup format. *The lighter colored individual cups are a non-alcoholic wine.* All who believe in the special meaning of Holy Communion are invited.**

#### ***Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence***

LSB 621

- 1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded, For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descending Comes our homage to demand.
- 2 King of kings yet born of Mary, As of old on earth He stood,  
Lord of lords in human vesture, In the body and the blood,  
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heav'nly food.
- 3 Rank on rank the host of heaven Spreads its vanguard on the way  
As the Light of Light, descending From the realms of endless day,  
Comes the pow'rs of hell to vanquish As the darkness clears away.
- 4 At His feet the six-winged seraph, Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence As with ceaseless voice they cry:  
"Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, Lord Most High!"

Text and tune: Public domain

***Noel***  
*Promise*

*Tomlin et al.*

***Make Room***  
*Promise*

*Maher, Hall*

## **POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE**

***Joy to the World***  
*Promise*

Text and music: Public domain

## **POST COMMUNION COLLECT**

Pastor: **(Do not print or project)** We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, that You have given us peace through the assurance of sins forgiven, so that with joy we may share in Your love each day, until Your Son returns to usher us into Your eternal presence; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## **THE BENEDICTION** (God's Blessing)

## **CLOSING HYMN**

***Christmas Day***  
*Promise*

*Cash et al.*

## **POSTLUDE**

***Angels We Have Heard on High***  
*Promise*

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